

DOJ Housing Plan Update

Eric Leabough

Housing Specialist, Office of Community Support Services
Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

DOJ Settlement Agreement

- Requires that DBHDS:
 - Assemble baseline information regarding the number of individuals who would choose the independent living options, if available;
 - Develop a plan to increase the target population's access to independent living options such as individual's own homes or apartments;
 - Establish and begin distributing, from a one-time fund of \$800,000 to provide and administer rental assistance.

Baseline Data

- Evaluated several options to determine the best approach to determine the baseline number of individuals that would choose independent living options.
 - Consulted with the Technical Assistance Collaborative and surveyed the approaches utilized to by other states.
- Determined that the best approach to obtain the baseline information would be to review currently available data and information in order to project/estimate the number people who may choose to live in an alternative housing option.

Housing Plan

- To date the DOJ Housing team has:
 - Established interagency team comprised of DBHDS, DHCD, VHDA, DMAS, DARS and VBPD to develop a housing plan required by the settlement agreement. In addition, local service providers and advocacy organizations have added to the team.
 - Developed a work plan outlining the key housing plan components and target dates for completion.
 - This work plan was shared with the DOJ Independent Reviewer during a meeting held in July 2012.
 - The housing plan will be completed by March 6, 2013.

Housing Plan

- To date the DOJ Housing team has:
 - Held seven interagency and eight work group meetings to work through the details of the DOJ Housing Plan and the planned application for HUD 811 Project Rental Assistance funding in FY13.
 - Compiled and analyzed baseline information re: the number of individuals that may choose an alternative housing option.
 - Completed the Introduction and Background Narrative
 - Drafted Barriers and Demographic and Economic Profile Narrative

Housing Plan

- To date the DOJ Housing team has:
 - Drafted an initial list of desired plan outcomes and potential strategies to increase the target populations access to housing options.
 - Developed an initial concept for the utilization of the \$800,000 to support rental assistance, transition costs, etc. The team continues to explore other opportunities to maximize and leverage the use of the \$800,000.

Although, the primary focus, at this time, is the completion of the housing plan, the team anticipates incorporating materials developed in connection with the DOJ Housing Plan into the planned HUD 811 application to the extent possible

Housing Options

- Interagency Team has determined that the term “**independent housing options**” could be misinterpreted; so therefore plan will refer to the term “**housing options**”:
- Characteristics of the desired housing options would be:
 - De-coupled housing and services’
 - Service provision and housing decisions are separate and distinct.
 - Housing that is not subject to licensing
 - Individual leases are executed
 - Consumer driven choice in relationship to where an individual lives and who provides services.

Other Housing Updates

- **Housing Trust Fund**

- Six regional input sessions were held in across the Commonwealth during the months of July and August to discuss and prioritize housing issues for the 2013 General Assembly session and provide input into the design of the newly created Virginia Housing Trust Fund.
 - DBHDS notified and encouraged CSB's to participate.
 - DBHDS also provided input directly to DHCD on priority housing needs to assist in their developing a plan for the use of the Trust Fund.

- **Interagency Agreement**

- Development of a MOU with DHCD, VHDA and DMAS has been put on hold until the DOJ housing plan is completed. The MOU will likely outline each agency's role in increasing access to integrated and affordable community housing options.

Other Housing Updates

- **HUD Section 811 Project Rental Assistance (PRA) Application**
 - The Commonwealth decided to forgo applying for HUD 811 funding in FY 2012, focusing instead on building:
 - essential relationships with the developers, owners, and housing managers that could establish a pipeline of potential 811 units.
 - agreements, policies, and procedures to implement a robust model of outreach, referral, and service provision.
 - The Commonwealth plans to submit an application for 811 funding in FY 2013 targeted to the DOJ settlement agreement populations.

- **Technical Assistance and Outreach**
 - Provided technical assistance to three non-profits in relationship to potential project based voucher opportunities.
 - Held informational meetings with four PHA's to provide an overview of the DOJ settlement and the desire for admission and wait list preferences for special needs populations.
 - Provided information to CSBs relating to the resources that are available to subsidize/support the construction of affordable supportive housing.
 - The Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources has engaged the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), under contract with the VBPD, to assist the Commonwealth with the planned Section 811 Application as well as the housing plan.

Office of Community Support Services

Eric Leabough, Housing Specialist

Email: eric.leabough@dbhds.virginia.gov

Phone: (804) 786-1393